The Western Conference News-Letter

JUNE 1910

A Liberal Religious Magazine devoted to Freedom, Fellowship *and* Character in Religion

"WE ARE CO-LABORERS WITH GOD"

The Western Unitarian Conference

Headquarters: Rooms 514-15-16 175 Dearborn St. - - CHICAGO

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The Churches of the Western Unitarian Conference.

OHIO.

CINCINNATI—The First Congregational Church, Reading Rd. and Linton St. Hour of service, 11 A. M. Rev. George A. Thayer, D. D., 304 Oak St.

CLEVELAND—Church of the Unity, Euclid and Genesee Aves. Hour of service, 11 A. M., Rev. Minot O. Simons, 1867 Crawford Rd,. N. E.

MARIETTA—First Unitarian Church, Putnam and Third Sts. Hours of service, 10:30 A. M., and 4 P. M. Rev. E. Alfred Coil.

SALEM—Unity Church, Pioneer Bldg., Garfield Ave. and E. Main St. Hour of service, 11 A. M. Rev. A. Irvine Innes, 181 Garfield Ave.

TOLEDO—First Unitarian Church, Ashland Ave. and Prescott St. Hour of service, 10:30 A. M. Rev. Abraham M. Rihbany, 4 Ashland Place.

YOUNGSTOWN—First Unitarian Church, Elm St. and Bissell Ave. Hour of service, 10:30 A. M. Rev. Horace Westwood.

MICHIGAN.

ANN ARBOR—First Unitarian Church, State and Huron Sts. Hours of service, 10:30 A. M. and 7:30 P. M. Rev. Henry Wilder Foote.

BENDON—Union Church. Hour of service, 8 P. M., Friday, fortnightly. Rev. A. B. Hills, Traverse City, Mich.

BROOKLYN—Unitarian Church. Occasional service.

DETROIT—First Congregational Unitarian Society, Woodward Ave. and Edmund Place. Hour of service, 10:30 A. M. Rev. Eugene R. Shippen, 926 Cass Ave.

GRAND HAVEN—First Unitarian Society, Washington St. between Third and Fourth Sts. Hour of service, 7 P. M.

GRAND RAPIDS—All Souls Church, Sheldon and Oakes Sts. Hours of service, 10:30 A. M. and 7:30 P. M. Rev. H. B. Bard, 22 Paris Ave.

GRAND RAPIDS—Holland Unitarian Church. Michigan Ave. and N. Ionia St. Hour of service, 10:30 A. M. Rev. B. A. VanSluyters, R. F. D. 9.

HARRIETTA—People's Church—Hour of service, 7 P. M. third Sunday of month. Rev. B. A. Hills, Traverse City, Mich.

JACKSON—First Unitarian Society, Jackson and Washington Sts. Hour of service, 10:30 A. M.

KALAMAZOO—People's Church, Park and Lovell Sts. Hours of service, 10:30 A. M. and 7 P. M. Rev. Joseph P. MacCarthy, 429 W. Lovell St.

MOUNT PLEASANT—First Congregational Society. Hours of service, 10:30 A. M. and 7 P. M. Rev. H. VanOmmeren.

ONSTED—People's Church. Hour of service, 11 A. M. Occasional services.

SHERWOOD—Unity Church. Hour of service 7:30 P. M. on alternate Sundays.

TRAVERSE CITY—Emerson Unitarian Church. Hour of service 7 P. M.,first, second and fourth Sundays of month. Rev. B. A. Hills, 303 W. 12th St.

INDIANA.

INDIANAPOLIS—All Souls Unitarian Church, Alabama St, near Fifteenth. Hour of service, 11 A. M. and 7:45 P. M., when specially announced. Rev. Frank S. C. Wicks, 17 Michigan St.

HOBART—First Unitarian Church. Hour of service, 7:30 P. M., on alternate Sundays.

ILLINOIS.

ALTON—First Unitarian Church, 110 East Third St. Hour of service, 11 A. M. Rev. Howard MacQueary.

BLOOMINGTON—Unitarian Church, East and Jefferson Sts. Hour of service, 10:30 A. M. Rev. J. H. Mueller, 506 E. Chestnut St.

BUDA—Union Christian Society. Hour of service, 2 P. M.

CHICAGO—First Unitarian Society (Memorial Chapel), Fifty-seventh St. and Woodlawn Ave. Hour of service, 11 A. M. Rev. W. Hanson Pulsford, 1174 E. 57th St.

CHICAGO—Unity Church, Barry Ave., near Evanston Ave. Hour of service, 11 A. M. Rev. Fred V. Hawley, 4232 N. Hermitage Ave.

CHICAGO—Third Unitarian Church, W. Monroe St., near Kedzie Ave. Hour of service, 10:45 A. M. Prof. George B. Foster, 1432 E. 51st St.

CHICAGO—First Swedish Unitarian Church, Wells Hall, 1629 N. Clark St. Hour of service, 11 A. M. Rev. August Dellgren, 1529 E. Wellington Ave.

EVANSTON—Church of All Souls, Chicago Ave. Hour of service, 11 A. M. Rev. J. Vila Blake, 122 Ashland Blvd., Chicago.

GENEVA—First Unitarian Society. Hour of service, 4 P. M. Prof. Geo. B. Foster.

GENESEO—First Unitarian Society. Hours of service, 10:45 A. M. and 7:30 P. M. Rev. David M. Kirkpatrick.

HINSDALE—Unity Church. Hour of service, 10:45 A. M. Rev. J. M. A. Spence.

MOLINE—First Unitarian Church, 16th St. and 6th Ave. Hour of service, 7:45 P. M. Rev. E. G. Brown.

QUINCY—Second Congregational Church, 633 Main St. Hour of service, 10:30 A. M. Rev. C. F. Elliott, 1426 Vermont St.

SERENA—Pleasant Hill Union Church. Hour of service, 10:45 A. M., third Sunday in month.

(*Continued on third page of cover.*)

The

Western Conference News-Letter

Vol. VI JUNE, 1910 No. 6

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50c a Year. 5c a Copy.

This is Conference number of the NEWS-LETTER. It contains the reports of the treasurer and of the secretary, a record of all business transacted, and accounts of the various Conference sessions. Most of the Church News section is given over this month to reports from various Associate Alliances. In this way we hope to bring to our readers who were not able to attend the Conference something of its inspiration and to emphasize the value of fellowship and concerted action both in the small groups and in the large group. We do better our special work in our local field when we are conscious that others elsewhere are working for the same great ends. The editor is glad that he is to go from these sessions of the Western Conference to take part in the sessions of the American Unitarian Association in Boston and that a goodly delegation of men and women from our Conference churches are to attend the International Gathering in Berlin the coming summer. It means wider sympathies and better courage for us all.

CONFERENCE SERMON.

The Conference sermon was given by Rev. W. M. Backus, of Minneapolis. He took for his subject "The Need of Our Age." To his mind the greatest need was a quickening of the moral sense. He showed how the lack of this sense manifested itself in all sorts of ways, from political corruption to women's dress. Then he went on to show that one reason for this rested in the fact that the old religious sanctions for morality were outgrown, and that nothing had taken their place in the minds of men. The old morality was mainly of a repressive nature, but with the going of the old powers of suppression, which were those of superstitious fears, there had arisen a positive type of morality that had its sanction in a new form of religious thought. This form of thought rests in the modern idea of God as an outflowing life. The command to the men of today is to make straight the ways of the Lord of Life by observing the laws of their being, that he may obtain expression in their lives. This reaches farther than the individual life, for it includes the whole social order. The human family is one in its interests and it is to the advantage of the whole that all of its parts should be clean and strong. No material gain can compensate to any individual the loss that he experiences through the degredation of any portion of mankind. By injustice an atmosphere is created in which the finest things of life cannot grow. One year of social justice would be of more value to the world than all of its prayers to God, for that would clear the social air of all its foul vapors and make human growth so rapid in all its spiritual powers as to make permanent that order. Our church stands

preeminent among religious bodies as a teacher of the moral life. The world needs us. Despite difficulties and discouragements we should be true to our ideals. Though there are few about the banner of our high desires it is planted far within the territory that once belonged to the foe. It is for us to press forward with it proudly held aloft into territory yet unwon.

THE BUSINESS MEETING.

Although two forenoons and part of an afternoon were set aside for the business sessions of the Conference the time hardly sufficed. Prof. Foster, adding to his word of greeting an earnest presentation of the changes which were overtaking religion at the present time, declared that the church must readjust itself to the new visions of the time and form a synthesis from the vital elements that are really stirring the hearts and minds of men today. The address of the President was a strong, fine, stirring word which will be published in full in a later issue of the NEWS-LETTER. The reports of the state secretaries presented somewhat in detail the conditions in each part of the Conference. Reports of the secretary and treasurer are printed elsewhere in this paper. The committees appointed at the meeting of a year ago presented their reports, which were referred to the business committee. Several resolutions were also offered at this time to be acted upon the following morning. The President appointed the following committee on credentials: Rev. M. O. Simons, Mrs. W. J. Jarvis and Rev. E. G. Brown; and the following business committee: Rev. Fred V. Hawley, Mr. W. H. Hall, Mrs. C. V. Mersereau. Rev. W. T. Brown, representing the Rocky Mountain Conference, made his word of greeting an earnest plea for socialization of religion. Rev. H. W. Foote, representing the A. U. A., spoke of the widening circles of conscious fellowship made clear to us through our membership in the individual church, the State Conference, the Western Conference, the A. U. A. and in the International Gathering to be held at Berlin next August.

At the session on Wednesday morning the credential committee reported 65 accredited delegates actually present, representing 31 churches. The business committee presented the resolutions which are on record under votes of the Conference. There was an earnest and somewhat protracted discussion regarding the best method of co-operation between the W. U. C. and the A. U. A. Those taking part in the discussion, which extended over into the afternoon, were Messrs. Backus, Bennett, Simons, Loring, Hosmer, Weatherly, Lilliefors, Pittman, Smith, Thayer, Day, Hawley, Greenman, Gebauer, E. G. Brown, Mrs. Mersereau and Miss Buck. There was an evident desire to produce light rather than heat and the final division came on the question whether a closer and more efficient co-operation with the A. U. A. should be sought through the existing arrangement or by a practical merging of our body with the A. U. A. The decision of the Conference was registered in the votes printed elsewhere in this issue, which look towards the fuller working out of the possibilities of the present system.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ALLIANCE SESSION.

The wonder of it is, that so delightful and so strong a picture could be drawn with so few shadows, none to remember, for usually the highlights depend upon the shadows for their values. The good ideas so freely given out, the personalities of the speakers, and audience as well, the cordial hospitality of the hosts, the brilliant coloring of the flowers on tables and platform, make the picture.

After the lunch (served to about 125) Mrs. Jarvis, National Director for Illinois, introduced the visitors who brought greetings from their various Alliances: Mrs. Pollard from the Minneapolis branch, which has for its especial work the establishing and maintaining of a Unitarian atmosphere in the State Uni-

versity situated in their city; Miss Noyes gave an encouraging greeting from the oldest and youngest parishes of Maine, those of Portland and of Sanford; Mrs. Longley from St. Louis assured her interest in these gatherings by acknowledging herself "a chronic conference goer," and her enthusiasm was in accord with her attendance; Miss von Petzold from Des Moines brought a report of the very prosperous work carried on in that church by their Unity Circle of 200 members, drawn from all over the city—interdenominational; she first sounded a certain clear high note which later was sung by most of the speakers, the note of woman, her desires and her achievements:—"the culture of a country is measured by its women."

At 2:30 the Alliance meeting, proper, was held in the assembly room, Mrs. Delano, National Vice-President Western States presiding. According to program was the opening hymn and invocation by Rev. Florence Buck. In her address of welcome, Mrs. Smith, President of the Chicago Associate Alliance, spoke very charmingly of the "family reunions" when we meet to eat together, some few to speak, while most of us listen for others—for those who are not able to be present; she made an earnest plea for more religion in our daily life, for a closer loyalty and cooperation in our common aims.

Mrs. Marks was not present, so, at this time, Miss Field of Cincinnati read a letter of greeting from Miss Low, the National President. The roll call was omitted, but of the ten states making up the Western Conference, all were represented at this meeting except Indiana.

The address of the afternoon was by Mrs. Celia Parker Woolley, on "Social and Religious Values"; just a few thoughts from her full storehouse of ideas. Never was the world so busy in setting itself right; for three things do we work — Justice, brotherly love, an upright life; in the bringing about of these ends comes a bloodless revolution between man and man, the social problem; between race and race, the negro problem; sex against sex, the struggle for the just standing of women. Women are our most active citizens in settlement work, in church work, and more and more are they becoming a factor to be reckoned with in civics. The difficulties that are to be overcome in the bringing to an end of these questions are, the present day greed for results, annual reports frequently blinding us to the good accomplished each day, too little personal responsibility, and an unwillingness to share. Mankind has always suffered from a hunger for righteousness, and the message of Unitarians should be that of freedom and human worth; love of culture shines but does not warm; the plea of the speaker was that we apply our standards of justice, freedom and human worth to the worker to another race, and to the other man,—woman: less dogma and more religion.

The discussion which followed was spirited and interesting from the view points taken by the various speakers; Mr. Shippen of Detroit allowed that it behooved him to take a stand for "Man's suffrage," since so much was being said in behalf of women, but he gave tribute to the worth of the Alliance in the church; Dr. Morse of Keokuk spoke earnestly; the remarks of Mr. Brown of Moline called forth a reply from Mrs. Mersereau, she from "the little town down on the Mississippi;" Prof. George B. Foster spoke frankly on the woman question giving a very clear, and chivalrous history of women; exquisite was his tribute to woman as "Mother" not only of her own offspring but mothering all live things, children of others, charities, churches, all the needs of mankind. Mr. Hawley spoke of his ideals of what the Alliance should be, more spiritual, broader, less given to study of ways and means. Miss Field spoke in the same vein, of the desire of more and more of the Alliances to get away from the old order of money getting and devote more time and energy to study, to philanthropy, to the work of the church. Just here we would suggest that not long could Mary sit at the feet of Divin-

ity were it not for Martha who keeps the household cruse filled with oil and the blaze under the vessel which keeps it boiling. Miss Buck summed up the whole afternoon in the lesson which we should all carry away with us, to keep in touch with others, to cultivate fellowship, more of the spiritual basis of economics, less of the economical basis of the spiritual. Mrs. Woolley gave the benediction.

PLATFORM MEETING, MAY 18.

The addresses of this evening may truly be said to have sounded the dominant notes of the New Unitarianism, which has gradually emerged from the cold light of the eighteenth century rationalism into the cosy warmth of the twentieth century mysticism. Indeed, the conference as a whole was almost unique in its entire absence of mere intellectual disquisition; everything that was said bore more or less directly upon the deeper things of the spirit.

Rev. John D. Reid, the pastor after St. Paul's own heart, opened the meeting by an earnest and profound address on "The Office of the Church." Religion is eternal. Broadly speaking, there is no such thing as decline of faith. Like the great ocean it has its tides, but it forever abides. The Church is its custodian. She addresses herself directly to the need of the human soul as a child of God. It is hers to foster religion, to cultivate spiritual-mindedness, to inspire and guide and comfort in the deep things of life. She is, therefore, not a society for political reforms, not a laboratory for the working out of social, philosophical, or even theological problems, but fundamentally a house of prayer. And so long as she remains true to this her office, she can never be a dying institution.

The second note, unlike the first, and yet like unto it, was struck by Rev. Gertrude von Petzold in her stirring address on "The Future of the Liberal Faith." Has it a future? That depends. First of all, if it is to survive, it must faithfully preserve the principle of evolution, not only in religion, but in morals. It is no use to be a progressive in religion if we are standpatters in every thing else. The modern world is confronted with problems which stir us to the very depths of our being; such as: Capital and Labor; Woman's Rights; Temperance; International Peace and Universal Brotherhood. What is to be the attitude of the liberal faith towards these problems? Upon the answer to this question does its future depend. In other words it lies with the liberals themselves to decide whether their faith is to have a future or not!

While her address was thoroughly modern in conception, the earnestness with which it was delivered had the ring of that pure piety, as sweet as that of ancient times, and as broadly reasonable as the demands of the modern world, for which she pleaded at the close.

The last speaker was the Rev. Dr. McCarthy of Kalamazoo. He appeared in the capacity of a vicarious sacrifice, evidently with the purpose of affecting a reconciliation between the two previous addresses. The truth, he suspected, lay "somewhere — between," but without definitely locating that mystic spot. For this we do not blame Dr. McCarthy. The truth, after all, is difficult to locate in this erring world. The problem which confronts us is the salvation of the soul and the creation of an environment socially just. Too often, however, emphasis is largely laid on the second, i. e. the methods by which the Church is to realize those ideals for which she preeminently stands. Above all else the Church must have a vision in order that she may be able to fulfill her primary function as a servant to the individual human soul—a vision large enough and clear enough to take in the miners' widows who train the Luthers and the pioneers' wives who give birth to the Lincolns.

The message which these speakers gave to the five hundred Unitarian Churches which are in America was not

discordant, but harmonious. Reduced to its simplest terms it was this: Spiritual meditation; consecrated action; sympathetic vision.—"If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

CONSERVATION OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES.

Wednesday noon President C. W. Van Hise of the University of Wisconsin gave a noble address upon the subject mentioned above. He pictured the first Conservation Conference held at the White House in 1908 where governors of States, scientists and politicians, or statesmen let us say, for the first time, perhaps, in the history of the world came together to take consideration for the welfare of the country. Out of that gathering has grown a national commission and many state commissions. In the hour allotted it was possible only to outline the more important features of the far reaching subject. The resources in mind are four fold; minerals, forests, waters and lands. The most important mineral is coal. Within the last 50 years the rate of increase in its use is startling to one who looks into the future. In its use there are also many preventable wastes. It is only recently that the government has awakened to the fact that the supply is limited and that the amount not already given over to private control should be held by the nation for the use of all the people. The recommendations at present before Congress look to an end of the sale of coal lands and the leasing of these on a royalty basis to those who actually take out the coal. It is this awakened sense of responsibility which has brought into the center of public attention the Alaska coal lands and has shown us how important is their final disposition. The question once clearly raised will be settled by public opinion, which is the final code of appeal in this country.

President Van Hise simply mentioned the forests of our country, saying that the need and the method of the conservation of forests was much more fully understood at the present time by the public than the other branches of the subject. So he would not attempt to deal with this branch.

After speaking on water as the basis of all life, he said that only in arid regions were people fully conscious of the supreme value of water. His chief stress in this portion of his address was upon water as a source of power. At the present time coal is the chief source of power in civilized lands. The streams of our country at the time of their least capacity are capable of producing 36 million horse power, 15 millions of which may be readily substituted for coal as a source of power. Not only does it produce power more cheaply but it saves coal for other uses.

Monopoly of water power in districts is inevitable. If it is to be developed for the public use public control is obviously necessary. In many districts large companies control the greater part of the water power, but there are yet large reservoirs of power under the control of the United States.

The last branch of his subject was "Lands." In districts where the soil had been cultivated for fifty years it was depleted 50% in usefulness. Loss by erosion has been greatly accelerated by ignorant methods of agriculture. Extensive areas have been completely depleted. Nature produces soil at the rate of one inch in 500 years, and we may estimate the average depth of soil in cultivated regions at eight inches. It is easy to see how great is the need for the conservation of this resource upon which at last physical life depends.

The speaker then went on to say how certain elements in exhausted soils might be replaced and the land restored to fertility, the loss up to the present time not being irreparable. He showed us how we might learn from the experience of older lands and put back phosphate upon depleted soils by a wiser management of our sewage. He also spoke of the discovery of phosphate lands in our Western states which have been withdrawn from entry and will be administered as a trust for the whole people.

His closing words showed how fitting was the consideration of such a topic at a religious gathering, because at last the question of conservation of physical resources is a moral question. It calls for far-reaching vision, for a consciousness of being trustees for the future. It asks us so to use the resources in our hands that they may be passed on to the generations yet to come undiminished, or as little diminished as may be. This needs to be brought home not only to the small groups of men who control large areas of coal or great aggregates of water power but also to every farmer who tills the smallest plot of land.

THE CONSERVATION OF OUR HUMAN RESOURCES.

Wednesday afternoon came a meeting upon the "Spirit of Youth." Mrs. Thomas gave a beautiful interpretation of Miss Jane Addams' remarkable book on the "Spirit of Youth and the City Streets." She dwelt upon Miss Addams' idealism and its application to the education of city children. They are removed from all the natural processes of industry and farming life. They must be brought back. We organize their work to exploit them. Their play must be organized so as to educate them. It must be idealized so as to lift them out of crime and the brutalizing grip of saloons and dance halls. The five cent theatres need to be purged so as to guide the dream making instinct into the making of moral ideals. We don't harness the emotion of youth to high social endeavors. If we could turn the youthful emotions of city boys and girls into social reforms as Lincoln turned those of his age into the causes of the civil war we could accomplish wonders. Embryonic Giottos and Edisons and Lincolns perhaps lie all about us if we could so organize city play and education and industrial life as to find them. We think much of hero boys in the past. Why don't we look for them and nourish them right in our midst?

Mr. Vail of Urbana, Ill., opened the discussion with the question Miss Addams has put so irresistibly before our churches: "Why don't we put our spiritual power to this social work?" He brought out the call for new methods in the social education of our young people. We need thoroughgoing study classes in social problems, definite social tasks and above all the touch of our inspiration on the spirit of youth. Youth is radical, ready for adventure in new projects. Youth is aglow with faith. Let us turn it to the momentous spiritual adventure of social regeneration. Let us lift youth's faith way above mere industrial reconstruction to the Kingdom of God. If we educate our youth today, tomorrow we save society.

Mr. Foote of Ann Arbor closed the discussion with some suggestions as to just what our youth could do in their immediate communities. If we will make connections with the city and town life around us we can find the needs. Even a small town like Ann Arbor presents them. The cheap theaters monopolize hours of the students' time. Why shouldn't the churches get them cleansed, and make them a source of moral inspiration? The children in the streets are the prey of the automobiles which fly to and fro. Why shouldn't the churches lead a campaign for providing every town with play grounds? The social needs appear everywhere if only our churches could see and act.

BANQUET.

140 people sat down in the beautiful banquet room of the Blackstone Hotel for the supper with which our Conference closed its meetings. The toastmaster, Ex-Senator William E. Mason was very happy in his introduction of the speakers and in the stories with which he again and again stirred peals of laughter.

Rev. E. M. Wilbur, Dean of the Pacific Theological School, brought greetings from the Pacific coast Unitarian Conference which held its annual meeting last week in San Francisco and made

him the bearer of its official expression of good will and hearty fellowship, Rev. F. L. Hosmer, a former secretary of the W. U. C. offering the resolution at the San Francisco meeting. Mr. Wilbur also spoke briefly of the successful work carried on by our churches on the Pacific coast and of the large results secured by the presence of two officials, one for office work, the other for field work.

In introducing Rev. R. S. Loring of Iowa City, the toastmaster referred to the sacred codfish so frequently mentioned in connection with Massachusetts, Mr. Loring's birthplace. Mr. Loring promptly responded by telling why the emblem of the codfish appeared in so many public buildings in Massachusetts. He said the reason was that it had been found necessary to "keep a fishy eye upon the scales of justice." He then spoke with enthusiasm of the great privilege granted to a Unitarian minister in a college town, who was enabled to deal with, to help young men and women full of courage and the spirit of adventure, and who were seeking far in the realm of religious thought and experience.

Mrs. S. F. Lynn of Chicago contributed a series of witty stories all of which had a deeper significance than appeared upon the surface. She closed with the story of the orchestra playing in the key of B natural when one instrument in clear high tones gave out F sharp. The other players endeavored to drown it out, but the high clear note was held and at last the orchestra took its key from the one instrument. This. she said, is the part we have to play, to sound the one clear note and hold it until others catch the key.

Rev. J. W. Day of St. Louis filled the place made vacant by the illness of Mr. Udell. After a series of good stories, he said that the two things in the Conference which had impressed him most were the fine spirit of brotherliness which manifested itself in the presence of sharp and precise differences with regard to policy and the recurrence of the high clear note which Mrs. Lynn had mentioned which served to bring us all together upon the high plane of thought and feeling.

The closing speaker, Rev. Florence Buck of Kenosha, Wis., brought her contribution of fun and also the serious word that while in many ways our body seemed weak and our work small that in reality the work we were busying ourselves with was the greatest possible work, so great that perhaps it was unwise to seek too anxiously for immediate results. As the comet so often mentioned during the day, brought us suggestions of the wide interstellar spaces, so the high things that we supremely care for and most strongly work for suggest the limitless realms of thought and infinite goal of our endeavor. After adjournment a considerable portion of the party repaired to the upper floors of the hotel to search for traces of the comet.

VOTES OF THE CONFERENCE.

RESOLVED: That to the members of the Third Unitarian Church in particular and to the Unitarian people of Chicago in general the Conference extends hearty thanks for the generous entertainment provided. Adopted unanimously.

RESOLVED: That We as a Unitarian body wish to express our sense of irretrievable loss in the death of the Rev. Reed Stuart of Detroit, for 23 years the beloved pastor of the First Unitarian Church of that city. He was a man who was both fine and strong, modest to a fault, but whose personality was interwoven in the very warp and woof of the city that honored him. He once said "We know that life is sweet; we do not know that death is not sweet also."

In the death of Mr. Zalmon G. Simmons, Kenosha and the entire state of Wisconsin loses an invaluable citizen and benefactor. The beautiful Memorial Church at Kenosha stands a fitting monument to his memory. His four-score years and one were years of energy and beneficence.

The Third Church of Chicago and the

Western Conference lost a valuable member in the person of Mr. James M. Wanzer. He served many years as trustee of the church and as treasurer of the Conference board. By birth a Friend, he preserved his simple reverent faith all through his life. He ever shamed the littleness of selfish hearts, and thereby proved an inspiration to nobler living.

The Western Conference feels deeply the loss of Mr. Herbert W. Brough, who for a long period carried the responsibility of treasurer of the Western Conference.

Another faithful member of the Conference Board, was Mr. F. F. Temple of Hinsdale, who has passed away during the year.

We wish to extend our sympathy to Mr. C. S. Udell, whose wife's death occurred during the year. Through her kindness the Western Conference received a generous legacy toward its endowment fund. Mr. Udell's absence due to illness is much to be regretted.

RESOLVED: That we congratulate the editors of the Western Conference NEWS-LETTER upon the good results of its mergement with "OLD AND NEW," and that all the delegates in attendance at this meeting be asked to urge its growing worth and claims upon their respective churches. Adopted unanimously.

RESOLVED: That at future meetings of this Conference the church with which we meet shall not be expected to entertain those in attendance, but that the delegates themselves or the churches sending them shall provide for their expenses while attending the Conference as well as while they are en route. Voted down.

RESOLVED: That in the judgment of this Conference the time has come for a larger extension of our work in this section. Therefore it submits the following method of business administration to the Directors of the A. U. A., with the request for a reply at its next annual session that will enable some such plan to become soon effective:

FIRST. That the A. U. A. pay the expenses of the Chicago office, the Secretary's salary, and traveling expenses.

SECOND. That the Secretary of the Western Conference shall be chosen by the Directors of the A. U. A. from a list of three names submitted by the Western Conference at its annual session.

THIRD. That Missionary work in the Western Conference territory, save under the Educational and New American budgets, be conducted by the Western Conference, and supported by the income from its vested funds and its collections from the field.

FOURTH. That this plan, if accepted, may be terminated at any time by either of the parties giving the other three months' notice.

Voted to lay on the table.

RESOLVED: That the Western Unitarian Conference cease to employ a paid secretary and to bear the expenses of the Chicago office, and that the American Unitarian Association be requested to put a field secretary into the territory of the Western Unitarian Conference and to establish such headquarters as they may deem proper.

RESOLVED: That the churches of the Western Unitarian Conference be requested to send their missionary contributions to the American Unitarian Association and that the income from the invested funds of the Western Unitarian Conference be expended at the discretion of the Board of Directors of the Western Unitarian Conference.

Not directly voted on.

RESOLVED: That the Conference notes with pleasure the harmonious work of its Secretary during the past year with the American Unitarian Association.

RESOLVED: That the American Unitarian Association be requested to continue freely to use the Conference Secretary within the western missionary field, and that we instruct our Secretary to do such work for the A. U. A. as shall not conflict with his other work for our Conference.

RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Directors of the

American Unitarian Association.

Adopted.

RESOLVED: That the Board of Directors shall consist of 21 members, of whom 7 shall be elected at the annual meeting each year for a term of 3 years, a President, two Vice Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall be elected for a term of one year at the annual meeting, and shall be ex-officio members of the Board of Directors. Five members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

RESOLVED: That the business of this Conference shall be submitted to a committee of five, of which one member shall be elected by each state Conference at its annual meeting to serve at the next annual meeting of the Western Unitarian Conference.

This committee shall prepare a list of candidates for the several officers and for all vacancies on the Board of Directors to be presented at the annual meeting of the Western Conference. Nomination for any vacancy may also be made by a petition signed by fifteen persons provided the signers be contributing members of some church or churches, within the boundaries of the Western Conference, or by three qualified delegates attending the annual meeting of the Conference.

Adopted.

On motion it was voted that Messrs. Hawley, Hull and Smith represent the Western Unitarian Conference at the annual meeting of the American Unitarian Association in Boston, May 24th and 25th.

On motion it was voted that the Western Unitarian Conference accredit delegates to the International Conference at Berlin next summer, said delegates to be selected by the secretary of the Conference.

The following officers were elected:

President—Hon. Morton D. Hull.

Vice Presidents—Rev. Geo. A. Thayer D. D., Hon. A. J. Sawyer.

Secretary—Rev. Ernest C. Smith.

Treasurer—Mr. C. K. Pittman.

Directors to 1913—Mr. F. A. Delano, Chicago; Rev. F. A. Gilmore, Madison, Wisconsin; Mr. J. W. Hosmer, Chicago; Mr. C. K. Pittman, Evanston; Rev. F. M. Bennett, Lawrence, Kas.; Rev. E. R. Shippen, Detroit, Mich.; Mrs. S. F. Lynn, Chicago.

Director to 1911—Mr. Dana Slade, Jr., Hinsdale, Ill.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

RECEIPTS FOR 1909–10.

From Churches	$2006.02
From Interest on Investments	1604.00
From Individuals	20.00
From Collection at Conference	17.00
From Secretary in the Field	87.00
From Legacy of Mrs. Udell added to Endowment Fund	500.00
Total receipts	$4234.10

EXPENDITURES 1909–10.

Secretary's Salary	$2500.00	
Clerk's Salary	300.00	
Office Rent	720.00	
Offices Expenses	118.79	
Treasurer's Expenses (Exchange)	1.15	
Conference Expenses 1909	21.75	
Contribution to National Conference 1909	25.00	
Contribution to American Unitarian Association	5.00	
Rent Safety Deposit Box	5.00	
Unity Publishing Committee	52.55	
News-Letter	85.00	
Printing	50.00	
Typewriting Machine	47.50	$3931.74

Excess of Receipts over Expenditures	$ 302.36
Total receipts available for expenses	$3734.10
Total expenditures	3931.74
Deficit for the year 1909–10	$ 197.64
Deficit for the year 1908–9	85.28
Deficit for the year 1907–8	107.80

The deficit for 1907–8 has been paid and is given here only for the purpose of comparison.

The amount of receipts given above varies slightly from that reported to the Conference because an additional amount of $27.00 was received before the close of the session.

ENDOWMENT FUND.

Notes and Mortgages	$16600.00
Bonds	12300.00
Bonds, Frothingham Fund	3000.00
Reserve Fund	1853.00
Total as reported in 1909	$33753.00
Legacy of Mrs. Udell added in 1910	500.00
Total	$34253.00

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM CHURCHES.

Alton, Ill.	$ 10.00
Ann Arbor, Mich.	20.00
Arcadia, Wis.	25.00
Bloomington, Ill.	10.00
Brookings, S. Dak.	10.00
Brooklyn, Mich.	6.00
Buda, Ill.	10.00
Burlington, Iowa	10.00
Champaign, Ill	10.00
Cherokee, Iowa	5.00
Chicago, Messiah	250.00
" Unity	150.00
" Third	35.00
" All Soul's	25.00
" Swedish	5.00
" Associate Alliance	12.50
Cincinnati, Ohio	75.00
Cleveland, Ohio	300.81
Davenport, Iowa	25.00
Detroit, Mich.	50.00
Duluth, Minn.	12.85
Geneseo, Ill.	41.25
Hanska, Minn.	8.00
Hinsdale, Ill	25.00
Hobart, Ind.	10.00
Humboldt, Iowa	10.00
Indianapolis, Ind.	10.00
Iowa City, Iowa	6.00
Kalamazoo, Mich	20.00
Kansas City, Mo	10.00
Kenosha, Wis.	25.00
Keokuk, Iowa	10.00
La Porte, Ind	50.00
Lawrence, Kan.	10.00
Lincoln, Neb.	25.00
Louisville, Ky	25.00
Luverne, Minn	10.00
Madison, Wis	25.00
Marietta, Ohio	10.00
Menomonie, Wis	10.00
Milwaukee, Wis	60.00
Minneapolis, Minn	20.00
" Free Christian	5.00
Moline, Ill.	3.30
Mt. Pleasant, Mich	10.00
Onsted, Mich.	3.00
Quincy, Ill	25.00
Salem, Ohio	5.00
St. Cloud, Minn	4.00
St. Louis, Mo., Unity	100.00
" Messiah	115.00
St. Paul	117.94
Serena, Ill.	10.00
Sheffield, Ill	10.00
Sherwood, Mich	5.00
Sioux City, Iowa	35.37
Streator, Ill	10.00
Toledo, Ohio	40.00
Topeka, Kas	10.00
Winnipeg, Icelandic	5.00
Wichita, Kan	10.00
Youngstown, Ohio	5.00
Total	$2006.02

ANNUAL MEMBERS.

Mr. A. R. McAlpine, Chicago	$ 2.00
Miss Belle MacFarland, Chicago	1.00
Mrs. H. C. Cutter, Oswego, Ill	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis H. Williams, Waukegan, Ill	2.00
Mrs. S. F. Lynn, Chicago	10.00
Total	$20.00

REPORT OF SECRETARY OF THE WESTERN UNITARIAN CONFERENCE

This report covers the first full year of service of the present secretary. On the whole it has been a happy year. The secretary, while not untouched by disappointments and discouragements, has been confirmed in his first impressions that the work is mightily worth while. At times it calls for so much vitality, wisdom, faith and love that one cries out "Who is sufficient for these things?" At other times it brings such heartfelt response from people who hear our gospel for the first time and knowledge of such devotion on the part of some ministers and some churches that one is rejoiced to have fellowship in such

a body and to be privileged to serve it.

The work done by the secretary is not very different in kind or amount from that done in other years. He has written over 1,600 letters, travelled about 21,000 miles and delivered 100 sermons and addresses. He has visited 37 churches and been in every state within the Conference limits save one. He has earned in the field $658.77 and expended in travel and hotel bills $571.69. This means a small balance turned over to the treasurer. But the secretary, with the concurrence of the Board of Directors, has held it his duty to go to the weak and struggling churches, or to give his time to missionary endeavor rather than to seek remunerative preaching engagements. "They that are whole need not a physician, but they that are sick."

The secretary's first impressions have been confirmed and strengthened by his year's service. The weakness of our churches is better known to him, but so also is their strength. Of course statistics are often misleading and never tell the whole truth about any situation, but they still have a certain value. With all deductions made for closed churches the whole conference field again shows a net gain in membership. The reports from 66 churches show a total gain in membership of 500, with a total loss by death and removals of 212, leaving a net gain of 288. Unity Church, Chicago, Indianapolis, Lincoln, Neb., Cleveland, O., Detroit, Mich., Madison, Wis., and Louisville, Ky., show the largest net gains. Two churches, those at Sioux City, Ia., and Marietta, O., report substantial gains following revival meetings held in their respective cities.

NEW BUILDINGS.

No new church edifices have been erected in our district during the year. The parsonage at Iowa City has been completed and is occupied by a satisfactory tenant; a parish house will soon be completed by our Norwegian friends at Hanska, Minn.; and the new parish house at Madison, the gift of Dr. Vilas, is well under way and will be occupied, it is hoped, before Thanksgiving. Duluth and Indianapolis are planning new church buildings and have been so successful in raising funds therefor that before another meeting of the Conference it is probable that buildings will be dedicated in both places. The Church of the Messiah, St. Louis, reports all pledges on its building fund paid and the debt reduced to proportions which the church can easily handle. Toledo reports a vote to engage an assistant for the pastor to help care for the growing work. The Lawrence Church has purchased a pipe organ during the year and has found it not only a valuable addition in the Sunday services, but has also carried a series of organ recitals which have been much appreciated in the community.

TWO KINDS OF GAIN.

There are changes at two points which should be spoken of because in quite different ways they show genuine gains, At Brookings, S. Dakota, where a field agent of the A. U. A. has been stationed for two years, the church faced the alternative of being reduced to a preaching station with occasional services or raising a given sum of money and having a resident minister to conduct services every Sunday. It looks now as if the conditions would be met and the work be strengthened with a considerable saving in missionary funds at the same time. The other case is almost the reverse of this. Salem, Ohio, has for some years enjoyed the services of a resident minister whose small salary was largely paid by the Association. Feeling unable to raise more money for church purposes the Salem people concluded it was not honest permanently to enjoy a minister at the expense of others and decided to become a preaching station, having services as they could pay for them themselves and as they could secure supplies. While on the surface this looks like a loss, to your secretary it seems a genuine gain. Our cause would be stronger, because the feeling of self-respect would be greater. if some other permanently dependent

churches would bravely take the same step.

The paragraph pulpit has been carried on by several of our churches, while a few churches print a number of the pastor's sermons each year. Several report philanthropic, social and civic work by pastor and people. Quite a number report men's clubs with interest centering in civic matters.

NEW WORK.

Missionary work has been carried on at one new point. The first week in March your secretary, with the cooperation of Rev. C. W. Casson, Secretary of the Publicity Department of the A. U. A. conducted a series of four meetings at Dayton, Ohio. The latter part of March your secretary again visited Dayton, preached and met various individuals and committees. On his report and recommendation the A. U. A. sent Rev. J. M. Davidson to do organizing work and to conduct Sunday services. A group of fine-spirited people has been gathered, and a temporary organization effected and incorporation as a a Unitarian church will soon follow. We see no reason why this Dayton movement should not be as successful as the Indianapolis movement has been.

CHANGES.

We have suffered the following losses through death: Rev. Reed Stuart, for 17 years pastor of our church at Detriot; Mr. Herbert W. Brough, for 13 years treasurer of the Conference; Mr. F. F. Temple of Hinsdale, Ill., a director at the time of his death: Mr. J. M. Wanzer of Chicago, for many years an ardent supporter of our cause, and Mr. Z. G. Simmons of Kenosha, who made possible the beautiful church building at that place.

There have been fewer changes of ministers in our territory this year than last. Rev. Paul D. Dansingberg took charge of the St. Cloud Church; Rev. E. G. Brown succeeded Rev. Floyd B. Hardin at Moline, Ill.; Rev. C. A. Polson succeeded Rev. A. M. Walker at Sheffield; Rev. Horace Westwood succeeded Rev. Wayland L. Beers at Youngstown; Rev. E. R. Shippen succeeded Rev. Reed Stuart at Detroit and Rev. Maxwell Savage succeeded Rev. W. H. Ramsay at Louisville; Miss Safford has been absent on leave and her pulpit at Des Moines has been in charge of Rev. Gertrude von Petzold; Mr. Ramsay of Davenport has been absent on leave, his place being supplied by Rev. Manfred Lilliefors. On Dec. 1st, 1909 Rev. H. W. Foote began his new work as Educational Secretary of the A. U. A., but is still residing at Ann Arbor and acting as minister of the church there. Rev. Newton M. Mann at Omaha has tendered his resignation to take effect in the fall, at the end of his 21st year of service with the Omaha church.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

The National Conference, as a result of repeated invitations on the part of the W. U. C., held its 23rd meeting in Chicago, Sept. 27–30, 1909. The event proved the wisdom of the venture. While the attendance was not as large as at meetings held near the Atlantic seaboard, it was larger than had been expected and was more national in its makeup than at any meeting previously held, many districts being represented which never before had sent delegates to a National Conference. We wish to express our appreciation of the courage of the Council in making the venture and of the good-will and energy of the Eastern friends in sending such large delegations to a distant city.

NEWS-LETTER.

At the last annual meeting it was voted "that, in the discretion of the Secretary, the Western Conference NEWS-LETTER be so changed and enlarged as to become a worthy missionary organ of the Conference;" it was further voted "that, in the event of this move, the Conference urge the abandonment of local Conference papers and the loyal support of the new organ." These resolutions were offered by the editor of OLD AND NEW, the Iowa State paper, and looked forward to a merger of that paper with the NEWS-LETTER. After correspondence with the editors and publishers of the Unitarian, The Pacific Unitarian and Old and New and after

getting bids from several printers the secretary made announcement of his plan for carrying out the provisions of the vote, stating that beginning January 1st, 1910, the Conference paper would be issued in magazine form with 16 pp. of new matter each month and covers in standing matter, including a directory of all Western Conference churches, at the subscription price of fifty cents for the ten issues.

The directors of the Iowa State Conference voted to discontinue the publication of Old and New on January 1st, 1910, and to urge the Iowa churches to give their loyal support to the enlarged NEWS-LETTER. This they have done to such an extent that the success of the paper for its first year, at least, is assured. Sioux City subscribes for 68 copies, Davenport for 50 and Humbolt for 35. The paid subscriptions at present amount to about 900, some of these being holdovers which expire at different times during the year.

From the time of the last annual meeting to January 1910, the NEWS-LETTER drew heavily on the Conference treasury. On the new basis it is self-supporting for the year 1910. All bills are paid to date, we have in hand $185.78 in cash, there are 26 unpaid subscriptions and the Conference pays $40 to the NEWS-LETTER for Conference programs and reports, giving us an income to Jan. 1st, 1911 of $238.78. This is sufficient to cover the estimated expenses for the balance of the year, but leaves us nothing with which to meet the initial expenses of the next year. We need to hold all the subscribers we have and to gain new ones in addition. We believe the Conference paper is worth while and shall strive to make it better in the coming year. Suggestions and criticisms looking to that end will be cordially received.

A NEW NEIGHBOR.

Until lately the Manitoba churches have reported to this office and have sent small gifts as a token of good-will, though not sufficient in amount to entitle them to voting membership. These movements were first set on foot by agents of the Western Conference. Gradually the work has grown, the desire for a local center and a separate District Conference has appeared. The British and Foreign Unitarian Association co-operates with the A. U. A. in supporting a field agent in the district. An Icelandic Conference has been already formed and a District Conference of the Canadian Northwest has been, or soon will be established. We should rejoice in these signs of vigorous growth in a district where we helped to sow the seed and should send greeting and cordial good wishes to the new Conference.

We are happy to record that the Louisville Church has this year contributed to our treasury and so once more becomes a member of the Conference it helped to found. It does this while still retaining its membership in the Southern Conference.

ORGANIZATION.

In his report last year the secretary stated somewhat at length the existing plan of co-operation between the W. U. C. and the A. U. A., adding that there was no agreement upon any plan as clearly better or more practicable than this. He is glad to report that he has found it easy during the past year to work on this basis. The relation between the two organizations during the year has been one of mutual helpfulness in forwarding the common work. From the first your secretary has sent monthly reports to the secretary of the A. U. A., not as a matter of compulsion, but as a practical measure of co-operation. In return he has been consulted regarding many matters, apprized beforehand of all contemplated action which might affect any churches in our district, and has received dulplicate reports from the Educational Secretary of the A. U. A. so far as his reports touched this district. All calls upon the Association have been promptly and generously met, the story of the movement at Dayton being a case in point.

SPIRIT OF THE WORK.

This report properly gives a summary of conditions in the churches and an account of the things done and policies

pursued by your agent. Yet, these, after all, are superficial, the spirit of the work being the all-important thing. There is always danger that an official, seeing much of the seamy side of church life, may grow sophisticated and cynical, or busying himself much with details of administration, may become merely a good manager and clever politician. Your secretary has not been spared this temptation, but he has at least endeavored to keep a sweet and brotherly spirit and has never quite lost his vision while grappling with the details of routine tasks. Endeavoring to give sound and practical advice to churches which have sought his counsel, first and foremost he has sought to renew and strengthen their vision of the things that matter supremely, to quicken their devotion to truth, righteousness and love, to kindle enthusiasm by making them feel that they are co-laborers with God when they join "hands to make the good things better and the evil good." The churches that care for the really great things and seek them first will be strong and able to develop all necessary methods and machinery. This conference will be strong and serviceable as the churches which compose it are strong with this kind of strength, instinct with spiritual vitality which manifests itself in an eager desire to serve.

If our churches are to be simply personal luxuries for small groups of people who think themselves better or wiser than their neighbors, your secretary can feel no eagerness to increase their number and no overpowering obligation to prevent their death. But he is convinced that the majority of our churches are not, and never will be of that type. Indeed, he sees a deepening and broadening of sympathy among them, sees them, with their sister churches, more and more stirred by the new social spirit which declares that no human soul can be completely saved, either by the blood of Christ, or by Character, so long as social injustice and political iniquity are calmly suffered with no hand raised to resist or to change the evil conditions. It is significant that Mr. Gannett suggests the addition of the word "service" to our conference motto, making it read "Freedom, Fellowship, Character and Service in Religion."

Our churches will still help the people who come to them to be free, friendly and upright, but they will increasingly turn the power thus generated into social endeavor of the larger and more significant kind. To seek the truth is good, but it is not enough; to live a clean life in purely personal relations is good, but it too, is not enough; until a sense of social responsibility comes, until social enthusiasm awakes, until "love", to use the apostle's word, is born, life waits for its crown. It is good to be free, to cherish our independence, in our very uniqueness to contribute something essential to the common life, but one needs ever to be consciously a part of that common life, to use his freedom, his uniqueness as a "soldier of the common good." When the splendid individual strength fostered in our free churches is completely quickened by this larger social enthusiasm we shall serve in even nobler measure than in the past.

ERNEST CHARLES SMITH.

May 17th, 1910.

TWO NEW BOOKS.

We take pleasure in giving space in our columns, to the notice of two books, recently written by Mrs. Gertrude Capen Whitney, and published by Sherman, French & Co., Boston. Mrs. Whitney is an author hitherto unknown to us, but we venture the opinion, that this will be the last opportunity we shall have of so expressing ourselves, for both books are well worth perusing—especially do they appeal to those who are striving to live in the spirit, and seeking the betterment of humanity. In "Yet Speaketh He," Amardo—a frail little twelve year old boy—isolated from his companions by reason of tuberculosis—comes upon a gaunt ugly monument, bearing a bronze plate, engraved with

the words, "Greater love than this hath no man, that he give up his life for his friend." Passing the spot frequently where the trudgery occurred, caused this thoughtful boy to meditate as children often do, upon the mystery of life, to wonder where the life of the hero had gone. "He gave up his life for Essie," he thought, as he gazed at the unsightly stone, "and where has it gone?" Soon there came to his mind words he had heard in a Mission Sunday school "Which being dead, yet speaketh." He is trying to speak through the stone, "This is his voice," he said, "and I'm going to help it speak more beautiful ly than it does now." So forthwith he set about the task of beautifying the spot where stood the ugly stone bearing upon its surface a motto of such significance. This was the starting point in the frail little life, which grew through the kindness of his benefactor, into sturdy manhood and helpfulness, to be a power for good in the world, making those with whom he came in contact to realize that life goes on and on that both life and death are but manifestations of the one great spirit, a constantly unfolding blessedness, "That which being dead still speaketh."

In "I Choose" we find a young girl employed as house servant in a family which like many others, provides meagerly for her comfort, she has the poorest room in the house, ill ventilated and scantily furnished. One afternoon she heard the following conversation among callers at the house which arrested her attention. One lady asked, "Do you believe we make our own environments?" The answer came "Yes, but I think that surroundings and environment do not signify the same thing." "What difference do you make in their meaning?" was asked. "I think man may be surrounded by physical manifestations as a ditch or railroad gulch, but may be environed by such a perfect comprehension of the relative values of the things in life that his mind makes for him a heaven, as in the case of little Sara Crew." The girl hung on these words, it was the dawning of a new mental era to her, thence forward she was to believe in divine attribute and the words "Environment."

Surroundings, relative values, and Sara Crew, kept singing in her heart, and bubbling from her lips, until, through persistent effort, under varied and adverse circumstances, rising superior to the vilest of temptations, and suffering unjust imprisonment, she was enabled to make these stepping-stones towards a higher life, as she told Miss Lamson when she first entered the prison "I am not a number, I am a soul and I am Marie Alano, and I have come to quarry building blocks for my character." A beautiful relationship was established between these two choice spirits—matron and prisoner—both working unselfishly for the same end. When Marie Alano was released, and entered the Brotherhood of Service her fitness for the work was voiced by the leader, CharlesOrchester, when he introduced her as "one who seeks to enter upon a novitiate—Instead behold, already A Master." Such was the fulfillment of her desire, she had learned that

"Every deed of solid worth
Helps the world to find its place;
Every life of homely truth
Raises higher all the race." S. T. W.

"Yet Speaketh He," by Gertrude Capen Whitney. Sherman, French & Co., Boston.
"I Choose," by Gertrude Capen Whitney. Sherman, French & Co., Boston.

S. S. TEACHER'S INSTITUTE.

An Institute for Religious Education is to be held at Meadville, Pa., June 27–July 11, 1910. The Institute is arranged in accordance with a vote of the Meadville Conference. Rev. Minot O. Simons, Rev. L. W. Mason and Prof. F. C. Doan were appointed a committee to make plans for it. These have added Rev. Henry T. Secrist of Meadville, who will serve as secretary and will answer any inquiries. The Theological School and the Unitarian Sunday School society will co-operate with the churches and the sessions will be held at the Theological School.

Prof. F. C. Doan, Ph. D., will give a course of lectures on The Religion of Childhood. In connection with these will be conferences for the discussion of the lectures in relation to boys and girls as we know them. These will be led by Mr. Secrist.

Prof. Francis A. Christie, D. D., will give a course of lectures on the Jesus of History.

Rev. Wm. I. Lawrence, who is to succeed Rev. E. A. Horton as President of the Unitarian Sunday School Society, will be present throughout the session. He will give four Bible Readings, from the Prophets, and will conduct conferences on methods in Sunday school work.

Miss Sara C. Bullard of Boston, Mass., will lecture daily on the kindergarten and on work for the youngest. She will give material for direct use and on two days will have practical classes. Miss Bullard is a teacher in the Boston public schools, a teacher in a Unitarian Sunday school kindergarten and lecturer at the Tuckerman School. Popular lectures by President Southworth, Rev. L. W. Mason, Rev. W. I. Lawrence, Rev. J. H. Applebee and others, will be given on the evenings.

The expenses will be small. Through the free use of the buildings and utensils, board will be furnished at Hunnewell Hall for five dollars a week. The rooms in Divinity Hall will be for women and will be free. A fee of one dollar and a quarter a week will be charged for gas and attendance. A membership fee of three dollars will be charged.

Meadville is an attractive place for spending a vacation. It has pleasant surroundings and the tennis courts, and gymnasium of the Theological School will be at the disposal of members of the school. Much effort has been made to make the Institute valuable in its instruction and pleasant in surroundings and arrangements. It is hoped that the churches will now respond by sending their teachers and workers and by paying expenses, when necessary. The sessions will open at 2 p. m. on June 27th.

POST OFFICE MISSION EXCHANGE.

Among the thousands of correspondents of the P. O. Mission are many isolated Unitarians for whom this Mission is their Church.

To meet the need of sermons for these correspondents and to supplement the tracts of the A. U. A. the P. O. Mission Exchange was established several years ago.

A few churches and Alliances have generously contributed to it, but we need more sermons, and we believe if this use of sermons could be more widely known that many churches, alliances and individuals would gladly subscribe the money for printing a sermon by their minister. We should like these sermons to come from all parts of the country.

The printed sermons may be sent to the P. O. Mission Exchange, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass., and an equal number by other ministers will be credited to the contributor.

These sermons are useful for church door and other local distribution, and thus a more wide spread knowledge of what our individual ministers are printing becomes incidentally one of the valuable results of this circulation of sermons.

We hope to receive at least five hundred copies of each but we can use a thousand or more. For convenience in mailing we suggest that the sermons do not exceed 4¾ inches by 7¼ inches in size.

Some societies not belonging to this Exchange are now printing sermons, and we hope that they may consider that a slight increase in expense will enable them to print a larger edition and join it.

This is a good time to select some inspiring sermon of the winter and put it into such form that it may be carried to those who never have an opportunity to hear liberal preaching.

"Draw fresh life from the day's new splendor,
Pluck thy hope from the morning star."
THOMAS WENTWORTH HIGGINSON.

ASSOCIATE ALLIANCES.

The Chicago Associate Alliance met at the Hinsdale Unitarian Church, Thursday, May 5th, for the annual meeting. The president, Mrs. Ernest C. Smith, opened the meeting with the reading of a poem by Minot J. Savage. The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved. The annual reports of the secretary and treasurer were read and approved.

The Branch Alliance at Unity Church, Chicago, reports a very busy and profitable year. There is a membership of 66, —18 new members being added to the list. Several innovations were adopted, notably the omission of the Christmas bazaar,—also a fund was started for luncheons in order that soliciting for food might be done away with. Orders for sewing were taken that funds might be supplied for charitable work. Contributions of money were made to the Home for Women released from the Bridewell, Frederick Douglass Center, Western Conference, Cheerful Letter Committee, Post Office Mission committee, etc. At the meetings it has been the aim to have a talk from some one on a topic of interest, or letters read from absent members. Seven well attended luncheons and dinners were served by the members.

The Third Church Branch reports a membership of 47—3 of whom are new members from the younger people of the church. Twenty-three work and literary meetings have been held. Aprons, skirts, quilts, etc., have been made and the following have been the subjects at the literary meetings—"Old Fashioned Neighborliness", "Beginnings of Unitarianism," "Modern Unitarianism," "Early Unitarianism in England," "The Story of Port Royal."

The Lend-A-Hand committee met and sewed for the bazaar and church and as usual furnished the cot at the Mary Thompson Hospital with a supply of linen. The treasurer reports receipts of over $600., the greater part of which have been expended for church repairs, paving, electric lights, etc.

The First Swedish Unitarian Branch Alliance reports a membership of 21, 7 of the number being new members. The meetings, 24 in all, were opened with brief religious exercises; business was attended to next, then some important religious or social question discussed. The chief aim of the Branch has been to maintain the church and for this purpose money has been raised by sales and entertainments. All appeals from "Word and Work" have been answered and articles sent to six sister branches for fairs. Having no church home, and the Swedish population being scattered over a great area, the society feels hampered; however the enthusiasm and strength increases as the years go by.

The Branch Alliance at Evanston having a membership of 32, reports a successful and pleasant year. Sewing for charitable purposes was the aim of the branch rather than that of making money. Garments were made for the Girls Industrial School at Park Ridge, for the Illinois Home and Aid Society, for the Children of Camp Good Will, and articles sent in answer to appeals for sales. The Alliance treasury and the Church Parlor Fund have been increased in various ways, nearly $200 having been received.

The Hinsdale Branch Alliance reports a membership of thirty, with fifteen regular meetings held during the year. Useful and fancy articles have been made for sales and considerable sewing done for charitable purposes. The members of the Alliance purchased new dishes and a carpet for the church, and money has been given for Post Office Mission work, the United Charities of Chicago, the Ellen Marshall fund, etc. Some time during each meeting would be devoted to readings along lines relating to general Alliance work. A Cheerful Letter Committee has been added to this branch. Nearly $700 was raised by the members during the past year.

Mrs. Johonnot of the Oak Park Universalist Church gave an interesting report of the women's work of their church

The membership numbers over one hundred and in the fall sewing is done for the bazaar and in the spring, for charity. Catering is also done as a means or raising money. Over $1000 was made during the year.

It was voted to have 500 programs printed next year and have each branch pay porportionate sums. Mrs. Lewis said she would be glad to receive any good books for the Ellen Marshall Library.

The report of the nominating committee was read and accepted and it was voted the secretary be instructed to cast the ballot whereby the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Ernest C. Smith; Vice Presidents, Mrs. E. C. Dudley, Mrs. G. E. Adams, Mrs. S. R. Conger, Mrs. Gustav Flodin, Mrs. C. K. Pittman, Mrs. Mary Beebe, Mrs. J. N. Wheeler; Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. T. R. Fleming; Philanthropic News Committee, Mrs. H. B. Colby; Religious News Committee, Mrs. Ethan A. Gray; Post Office Mission, Miss Marian Lewis; Cheerful Letter, Miss M. A. Fry.

Rev. Fred V. Hawley gave an address on the Western Conference. The chairman of the Religious News Committee gave a report of the year's happenings in the religious world. Miss Noyes of the Tuckerman School in Boston gave an interesting report of her work. It was voted to have the collection which amounted to $12.50 go to the Western Conference. The roll call showed an attendance of 57. On motion the meeting adjourned.

E. W. MASON, Sec'y

The Chicago Associate Alliance will meet at Geneva, Illinois, Thursday, June 2, 1910. Basket luncheon. The address "Social Ideals" will be given by Rev. F. V. Hawley.

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATE ALLIANCE

On March 11th, representatives from the branches of Kenosha and Madison met with the Milwaukee Branch of the Women's Alliance. A luncheon was followed by the regular business meeting of the Milwaukee branch, a short musical program, papers by the Rev. Florence Buck and the Rev. Walter F. Greenman, after which these branches formed themselves into the Wisconsin Associate Alliance of Unitarian and Other Liberal Christian Women.

President, Mrs. H. A. J. Upham, Milwaukee; Vice President, Mrs. Elizabeth Pudor, Madison; Secretary, Miss Ethel Potter, Milwaukee; Treasurer, Miss French, Kenosha.

Brief by-laws were drawn up. At least one meeting is to be held each year.

ETHEL POTTER, Secy.

MISSOURI VALLEY ASSOCIATE ALLIANCE.

The Missouri Valley Associate Alliance of Unitarian Women, met at Lawrence, Kas., April 29th, 1910. Fifty-five delegates were present, twelve from Kansas City, from a membership of thirty-two, fifteen from Topeka from a membership of twenty-one and twenty-eight from Lawrence from a membership of fifty. A number of visitors were also present. A very pleasant feature of both forenoon and afternoon programs, was the music, on piano, pipe organ and violin, by Mrs. Dalton, Mrs. Crowe, and Masters Ralph and Philip Stevens, of Lawrence. The forenoon was occupied chiefly by reports and election of officers. All three branches reported incomes of from three hundred fifty to four hundred dollars earned chiefly by sewing and socials.

Kansas City reported an unusually successful Easter sale; Topeka had found the agency for a vacuum cleaner profitable; while Lawrence had done remarkably well with its book table.

The Lawrence branch had helped to buy the new pipe organ, Topeka had given much of its earnings toward the minister's salary and all had helped toward church repairs and furnishings, and had done some charitable work.

Mrs. Theodore Wilkie was reelected as president and Mrs. Theodore W. Todd as secretary for the ensuing year.

Mrs. Frederick Smith of Kansas City

was chosen a delegate to the National Alliance.

The program for the morning closed with a biographical sketch of Mrs. Ward Dix by Mrs. Whitman and the singing of a favorite hymn of Mrs. Dix.

After a bountiful luncheon served at the church, and a pleasant social hour, the afternoon program was begun. It was devoted to the reading and discussion of three very interesting papers. "The New Educational Department of the A. U. A." by Mrs. M. C. Dodge of Kansas City; "Our Denominational Schools," by Mrs. R. Buckminster, Lawrence; "Calls for Help from the Colored Schools," by Miss Fenella Dana, Topeka.

The last, especially received a very full and earnest discussion.

HELEN M. TODD, Sec'y.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATE ALLIANCE.

On May 10th the Rocky Mountain Associate Alliance met with the Colorado Springs branch. Delegates were present from branches in Colorado and Utah. Mrs. Robert H. Davis of New York, "a dynamo of enthusiasm and power," as the Pacific Unitarian characterized her, was the guest of honor, representing the National Alliance. A bountiful luncheon was served in the church parlors, the local branch maintaining its reputation for managing such matters easily, daintily and generously. The afternoon session was presided over by Mrs. F. M. Keezer of Denver, President of the Associate Alliance. A cordial welcome was extended by Mrs. Lulu B. Sinton, President of the local branch. Reports from the various branches showed active work going on and led to an interesting discussion upon the topic. "What can we do to arouse greater interest?"

In the evening there was a platform meeting with the general topic "The Mission of the Liberal Church in the Rocky Mountain States." This meeting was in charge of Mrs. John B. Davis of Denver, Vice President of the National Alliance, who opened the discussion and called out remarks from many who were present. The chief address at each meeting was given by the guest of honor, Mrs. Davis, of New York. Her enthusiasm, her zealous loyalty and her skill in rousing interest made this a memorable meeting of the Associate Alliance. Her visit will be a means of quickening that already active and loyal work of our own branches. The acquaintance formed between members of our widely separated branches will be helpful and we shall look eagerly for future meetings to continue and enlarge this co-operation.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES.

The annual meeting of the Unitarian Church of Omaha, Neb., was held April 27, and largely attended without the aid of refreshments. Reports of the various activities showed, as churches go in these days, a fair measure of prosperity. The treasurer was able to say that, all bills paid to date, he held a balance of $1.30. In accordance with notice given at the previous annual meeting, Rev. Newton Mann tendered his resignation, to take effect in the fall, at the close of his twenty-first year of service. The resignation has not yet been accepted. Proposal was made that Mr. Mann be retained as minister *emeritus* on a nominal salary, but action was deferred, on his request, until he shall have made up his mind whether he will retain a residence in Omaha.

DAVENPORT, IOWA.—First Unitarian Society, Rev. Manfred Lilliefors. The Young People's Guild continues to be a great success owing to the interest and help of Mr. and Mrs. Lilliefors, who are such favorites with the young people as well as with the older members. The 1st of May meeting was a great success. Baskets of May flowers were presented and a program of entertainment carefully planned by Mrs. Lilliefors. The guild cleared $40 from a play given by the members, followed by a dance. They expect to give $20 towards wiping out the church debt. Much to the re-

gret of all, Mrs. Lilliefors and the children expect to leave for Northern Minnesota the last of May, Dr. Lilliefors following a month later. Dr. and Mrs. Lilliefors have endeared themselves to the people during the months of their residence here and we hope they will find a permanent pastorate near by us. One of our old and prominent members, Maj. Marks, died quite suddenly in Florence, Italy. The body will not arrive here until the last of the month. All social functions in the church will be discontinued until after the funeral.

The Board of Directors of the Western Unitarian Conference met May 12th, at 2 p. m., Present, Mesdames E. A. Delano, and S. F. Lynn, Messrs. Hull, Hawley, Pittman and Smith. The Treasurer presented some figures showing the exact condition of the Conference treasury and the Secretary read portions of his report. It was voted that the Secretary's report be printed in the next issue of the NEWS-LETTER. Adjourned at 4:15 p. m.

ERNEST C. SMITH, Sec'y.

The Board of Directors of the Western Unitarian Conference met May 16th, at 2:15 p. m. Present, Mesdames Delano, Lynn and Mersereau, Messrs. Backus, Bennett, Foote, Gebauer, Hosmer, Hawley, Pittman, Simons and Smith. The secretary's report was read and after minor changes adopted. The treasurer's annual report was read. It was voted to instruct the treasurer to credit Mrs. Udell's legacy to the endowment fund. His report was then adopted. It was further voted that the treasurer, in connection with his report to the Conference, make an appeal for a more generous support of the work. Adjourned at 3:45 p. m.

ERNEST C. SMITH, Sec'y

HYMN

Written for the 58th Annual Meeting of the Western Conference.

TUNE—GERMANY.

As in the freedom of the truth
In pleasant fellowship we meet,
Back through the years, a noble host
With loving reverence let us greet.

All those who suffered for their faith,
Misunderstood and vilified,
Yet knowing whence they drew their strength,
Strong in its courage lived and died.

Shall we but bask in light they won
Or walk as children of the light?
Unselfish service, kindling love,
Alone can bring the reign of Right.

IN DARK AND LIGHT.

A truth is in the legend old
Of those who crossed the desert sand
Adoring while they said, Behold
His pillars lead us to the land!

In both the darkness and the light
Thou wert their Guardian the same—
Their constant Guide by day and night,
In pillared cloud or pillared flame.

So runs the tale; and what if I
See shafts of radiance on my way,
Or towers of cloud that mount so high
They shut from me the shine of day?

Dear Lord, it is enough to know
Thou art in both, and I'm with thee:
By gloom or glow, by joy or woe,
It still is thou that leadest me.

—A. IRVINE INNES.

Let us be like a bird, a moment lighted
Upon a twig that swings;
He feels it sway, but sings on unaffrighted,
Knowing he hath his wings.

Victor Hugo.

(*Continued from second page of cover.*)

SHEFFIELD—First Unitarian Church. Hour of service, 10:45 A. M. Rev. C. A. Polson.

SHELBYVILLE—First Congregational Church. Hour of service, 10:30 A. M., second and fourth Sundays of month. Rev. Jasper L. Douthit.

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN—Unitarian Church, Matthews and Oregon Sts., Urbana. Hour of service, 11 A. M. Rev. Albert R. Vail, 1013 W. California Ave.

MINNESOTA.

ADRIAN—People's Church. Occasional services.

DALBO—Dalbo Unitarian Society (Swedish). Rev. David Holmgren.

DULUTH—First Unitarian Church, First Street and Eighth Avenue, East. Hour of service, 11 A. M. Rev. George R. Gebauer, 1209 E. Third Street.

HANSKA—Nora Free Church. Hour of service, 11 A. M. Rev. A. E. Norman.

LUVERNE—Unity Congregation Church. Hour of service, 10:45 A. M. Occasional services.

MINNEAPOLIS—First Unitarian Society, Eighth St. and Mary Place. Hour of service, 10:30 A. M. Rev. Wilson M. Backus, 803 Mary Place.

SPRINGVALE—Springvale Unitarian Society (Swedish). Rev. David Holmgren.

ST. CLOUD—Unity Church. Hour of service, 10:45 A. M. Rev. Paul D. Dansingberg.

ST. PAUL—Unity Church, Portland Ave. and Grotto St. Hour of service, 11 A. M. Rev. John D. Reid, 656 Portland Ave.

UNDERWOOD—First Christian Church (Swedish) Summer preaching station.

WISCONSIN.

HUDSON—The Scandinavian Unitarian Society of Hudson. Rev. A. E. Norman, Hanska, Minn.

KENOSHA—Henry M. Simmons Memorial Church, Chicago St. Hours of service, 10:30 A. M. and 7:30 P. M. Rev. Florence Buck, 426 Park Ave.

MADISON—First Unitarian Society, Wisconsin Ave. Hours of service, 11 A. M. and 7:30 P. M. Rev. Frank A. Gilmore, 117 West Gorham St.

MENOMONIE—First Unitarian Society. Rev. Chas. F. Niles.

MILWAUKEE—First Unitarian Society, Ogden Ave. and Astor St. Hour of service, 11 A. M. Rev. Walter F. Greenman, 682 Astor St.

IOWA.

CHEROKEE—Unity Church. Occasional services.

DAVENPORT—First Unitarian Society, Grand Ave. Hour of service, 10:45 A. M. Rev. Manfred Lilliefors, 1033 Brady St.

DESMOINES—First Unitarian Society, Eleventh and High Sts. Hour of service, 10:30 A. M. Rev. Gertrude von Petzold, 924 15th St.

HUMBOLDT—Unity Church. Hours of service, 10:30 A. M. and 7:30 P. M. Rev. Charles P. Wellman.

IOWA CITY—First Unitarian Society, Iowa Ave. and Gilbert St. Hours of service 10 A. M. and 7 P. M. Rev. Robert S. Loring.

KEOKUK—First Unitarian Society. Hour of service, 11 A. M. Rev. M. Rowena Morse, Ph. D., 514 Fourth St. W.

PERRY—Unity Church. Hour of service, 10:30 A. M. Rev. S. Louisa Haight.

ROCK RAPIDS—People's Church. Lay services.

SIOUX CITY—Unity Church, Tenth and Douglas Sts. Hours of service, 10:30 A. M. and 7:30 P. M. Rev. Manley B. Townsend, 410 Tenth St.

WASHTA—Unity Society. Service and Sunday school every other Sunday at 2 P. M.

MISSOURI.

KANSAS CITY—All Souls Church, Baltimore Ave. and Armour Blvd. Hour of service, 11 A. M. Rev. Vernon M. Cady, 227 Bayard Ave.

ST. LOUIS—Church of Messiah, Union Ave. and Morgan St. Hour of service, 11 A. M. Rev. John W. Day, 320 N. Newstead Ave.

ST. LOUIS—Church of the Unity, Park and Armstrong Aves. Hour of service, 11 A. M. Rev George R. Dodson, 48 Nicholson Place.

KANSAS.

BELOIT—First Unitarian Society. Rev. Geo. F. Armington.

LAWRENCE—The Unitarian Church, Hancock and Vermont Sts. Hours of service, 11 A. M. Rev. Frederick M. Bennett, 1209 Oread Ave.

TOPEKA—First Unitarian Church, 918 Topeka Ave. Hour of service, 11 A. M. Rev. J. H. Jones, 706 Tyler St.

WICHITA—First Unitarian Church, North Topeka and Central Aves. Hour of service 11 A. M. Rev. Edward Day, 3215 Douglas Ave.

NEBRASKA.

LINCOLN—All Souls Church, Twelfth and H. Sts. Hour of service, 10:30 A. M. Rev. Arthur L. Weatherly, 1784 S. 25th St.

OMAHA—Unity Church, 17th and Cass Sts. Hour of service, 10:45 A. M. Rev. Newton Mann, 421 Seventeenth St.

COLORADO.

COLORADO SPRINGS—All Souls Unitarian Church Dale and Tejon Sts. Hour of service, 11 A. M. Rev. J. Lewis Marsh, 219 E. Monument St.

DENVER—First Unitarian Society, Broadway and 19th Sts. Hour of service, 11 A. M. Rev. David Utter, D. D., 329 Broadway.

FORT COLLINS—Unity Church. Hour of service, 11 A. M.

GREELEY—Unity Church, Ninth St. and Ninth Ave. Hour of service, 10:45 A. M. Rev Milton R. Kerr.

PUEBLO—Unity Church, Court and Ninth Sts. Hour of service, 7:30 P. M. Rev. J. Lewis Marsh, Colorado Springs.

SOUTH DAKOTA.

BROOKINGS—First Unitarian Society. Rev. Rett E. Olmstead.

MANITOBA.

GIMLI—First Unitarian Church. Rev. Johann P. Solmundsson.

WINNIPEG—The First Icelandic Unitarian Church of Winnipeg, Sherbrooke and Sargent Sts. Hour of service, 7 P. M. Rev. Gudmundur Arnason, 577 Sherbrooke St.

WINNIPEG—All Souls Church. Rev. W. A. Vrooman.

WE declare our fellowship to be conditioned on no doctrinal tests, and welcome all who wish to join us to help establish truth and righteousness and love in the world:

We believe that to love the Good and live the Good is the supreme thing in religion:

We hold reason and conscience to be final authorities in matters of religious belief:

We honor the Bible and all inspiring scripture, old or new:

We revere Jesus and all holy souls that have taught men truth and righteousness and love, as prophets of religion:

We believe in the growing nobility of Man:

We trust the unfolding Universe as beautiful, beneficent, unchanging Order; to know this order is truth; to obey it is right and liberty and stronger life:

We believe that good and evil inevitably carry their own recompense, no good thing being failure, and no evil thing success; that heaven and hell are states of being; that no evil can befall the good man in either life or death; that all things work together for the victory of good:

We believe that we ought to join hands and work to make the good things better and the worst good, counting nothing good for self that is not good for all:

We believe that this self-forgetting, loyal life awakes in man the sense of union, here and now, with things eternal—the sense of deathlessness; and this sense is to us an earnest of the life to come:

We worship One-in-All,—that Life whence suns and stars derive their orbits and the soul of man its Ought,—that Light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world, giving us power to become the sons of God,—that Love with whom our souls commune. This One we name—the Eternal God, our Father.

Resolution of May 19, 1892.

Resolved, That the Western Unitarian Conference hereby declares it to be its general aim and purpose to promulgate a religion in harmony with the foregoing preamble and statement